SI. No.	State	NREGA districts	Gram Rojgar Sahayak Panchayats	Blocks	Prog. Officer appointed	Tehnical Staff	DEO	Gram Status	Acctt
1	Manipur	3	—	information not reported					
2	Mizoram	4	212						

Efforts to promote research in Nano technology

tl384. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that there is not enough research activity in Nano technology;

if so, the efforts being made to promote research activities;

whether cooperation is being sought at international level in this regard; and

if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Several scientists from various scientific institutions and universities around the country are very actively involved in research and development in nano-science and nano-technology. Various Ministries/Departments of Government of India such as the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Information Technology (DIT), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have been supporting R&D in Nano Science and Technology. DST launched a special Nano Science and Technology Initiative (NSTI) in October, 2001. The NSTI had focused on research and development in nano-science and technology in a comprehensive manner so that India can become a significant player in the area and contribute to the development of new technologies besides carrying out basic research at the frontiers of knowledge. The programme supported R&D projects, strengthening of characterization and infrastructural facilities, creation of centres of excellence, generation of trained manpower, joint projects between educational institutions and industry for technology development etc.

While very good and internationally competitive fundamental studies are being carried out on nanoscale systems, India has to catch up in the area of Nano-technology. The Government has launched a Mission to encourage research work in the field of Nano Science and Technology with an allocation Rs. 1000 crore for 5 years. It is planned to launch a variety of educational and HRD programmes, R&D programmes, establish centres of excellence, promote institution-industry linked projects through increased public private partnerships, promote entrepreneurship through establishment of business incubators, etc. as part of the Nano Mission. The Nano Mission also plans to put in special efforts towards development and commercialization of Nano-Technology, not only through public private partnerships but also by encouraging and enabling the private sector to invest in, and leverage, this sunrise technology. There are also plans to establish three major Institutes of Nano Science and Technology in the country.

(c) and (d) A number of countries including United States of America, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Germany, Swedan, Swiss, Taiwan and European Commission have sought cooperation

tOnginal notice of the question was received in Hindi

in the area of nano-technology through DST *via* joint projects mode. Many other countries have also shown interest for cooperation in this area. International cooperation is being implemented in the bilateral mode on mutual benefits basis. A number of joint workshops have also been organized for identifying the areas of potential cooperation in this area.

Applications for patents at international level

t l385. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that India is one of those countries of the world who submit applications for patent at international level;

if so, the names of those 15 countries who submit maximum applications for patent yearly on average;

whether India is also one of these 15 countries; and

if so, the position of India among these countries?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian companies, research institutions and universities have been filing patent applications in other countries, including applications through the route of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

As per World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data, the first 15 countries who have filed maximum PCT applications are — United States of America (USA), Japan, Germany, Republic of Korea, France, United Kingdom, China, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, Canada, Australia, Finland and Israel.

No, Sir.

Question does not arise.

Foreign scientific publications to set up Indian editions

1386. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

the details of Government's policy to encourage foreign scientific publications and periodicals to set up Indian editions;

how many such foreign publications have started Indian editions, give discipline-wise details; and

whether Indian scientists and professionals are represented on the editorial boards of Indian editions of such foreign periodicals?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL>r (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.